IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An optical recording material for at least one of binary, multibit and volume data storage, comprising:

(a) at least one dyestuff selected from polymeric azo dyestuffs, said dyestuff changing its spatial arrangement upon irradiation with polarized electromagnetic radiation; and

(b) optionally at least one grouping having form anisotropy,

wherein,

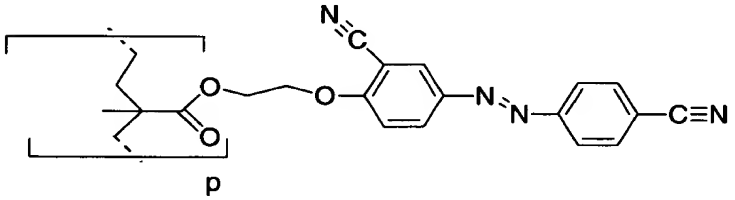
(i) the absorption maximum of the dyestuff is at least one of, at least 30 nm less than 400 nm and at least 30 nm greater than 400 nm,

(ii) at 400 nm the dyestuff reaches an optical density of not more than 60% of its absorption maximum,

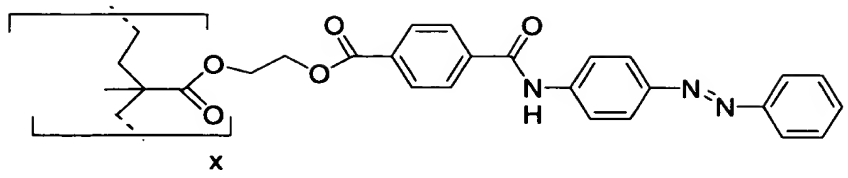
(iii) said optical recording material has the capacity for being rewritten on by changing the state of polarization of actinic light, an intensity of at least 80% of the original value being achieved after a deletion/rewriting cycle, and

(iv) wherein at 400 nm, under identical conditions, an optical writing operation upon said optical recording material proceeds no more slowly than at 500 nm, and birefringence values induced during said optical writing operation do not differ from those birefringence values induced at 500 nm by more than 10%,

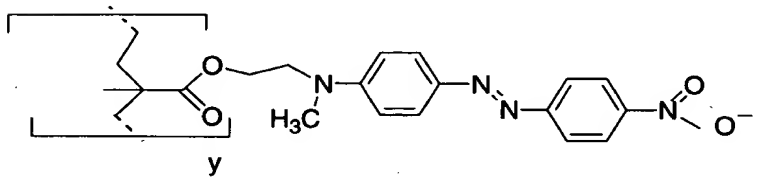
further wherein said polymeric azo dyestuff is selected from at least one polymer represented by formulas XIV, XV, XVI and XVIII,



XIV

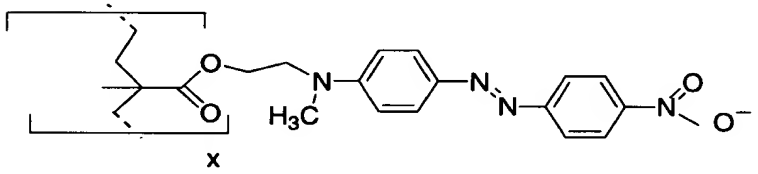


x

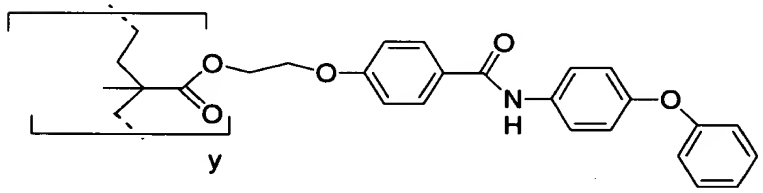


y

XV



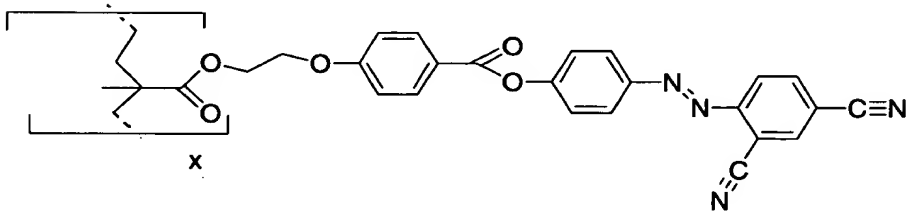
x



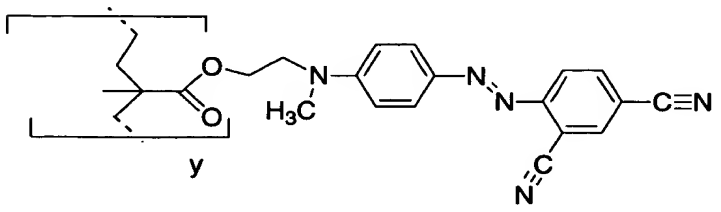
y

XVI

and



x



y

XVIII

p being between 10 and 1,000, and the molar ratio of x : y being between 10:90 and 90:10.

2. (Previously Presented) The recording material of Claim 1 wherein the absorption maximum of the dyestuff is less than 370 nm.

3. (Previously Presented) The recording material of Claim 1 wherein the absorption maximum of the dyestuff is greater than 450 nm.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The recording material of Claim 1 wherein in the solid state at a thickness of 250 nm said recording material has an optical density of ≤ 1, at a wavelength in a wavelength range from 380 to 420 nm.

6. (Previously Presented) The recording material of Claim 1 wherein said optical recording material is optically written upon using electromagnetic radiation that is light in a laser wavelength range of between 380 to 420 nm.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A storage system comprising the recording material of Claim 1.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The storage system of Claim 11 wherein it also additionally comprises a reflection layer.

14. (Previously Presented) A process for the production of the storage system of Claim 11 wherein said process comprises applying the storage medium by spin-coating.

15. (New) The optical recording material of Claim 1 wherein said polymeric azo dyestuff is a polymer represented by formula XIV.

16. (New) The optical recording material of Claim 1 wherein said polymeric azo dyestuff is a polymer represented by formula XV.

17. (New) The optical recording material of Claim 1 wherein said polymeric azo dyestuff is a polymer represented by formula XVI.

18. (New) The optical recording material of Claim 1 wherein said polymeric azo dyestuff is a polymer represented by formula XVIII.